



Alphacrucis University College

COURSE HANDBOOK

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN RESEARCH METHODS

Graduate Research School

Alphacrucis University College Ltd

ACN: 072 747 187
ABN: 13 072 747 187
RTO: 90525

TEQSA: PRV12006
CRICOS: 00958A

Mail
PO Box 337 Parramatta 2124

Phone
1300 228 355

Email
info@ac.edu.au

NSW VIC QLD WA SA TAS

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Overview

Graduate Certificate in Research Methods (GCR)	Program Director	Professor Johannes Luetz
	AQF Level	AQF Level 8
	Qualification	Graduate Certificate
	Subjects	2
	Languages of Instruction	English
	ASCED Code	091703
	Accreditation	Self-accredited (accredited in Oct 2025)
	Course Length	6 months full-time (up to 1 year part-time)
	Entry Requirements	https://www.ac.edu.au/awards/graduate-certificate-in-research-methods/

COURSE OVERVIEW

The Graduate Certificate in Research Methods (GCR) is a two-unit program designed to introduce students to the principles and practices of advanced research in the broad fields of Theology, Business, and Education. It provides essential training in research design, methodology, and academic writing, equipping students with the foundational skills needed for further postgraduate research.

The GCR is particularly suited for students who wish to pursue higher research degrees but require structured preparation. Successful completion of the program provides a direct pathway into the Master of Philosophy (MPhil), where students can extend their skills through independent research leading toward a PhD.

Through coursework taught by experienced researchers, candidates gain the ability to critically evaluate scholarly literature, formulate research questions, and apply appropriate methods within their discipline. This training equips graduates to engage confidently with the challenges of advanced academic study and research.



Course Structure

Note: Contact the Student Support Team for access to previous course version.

This course structure applies to students enrolled from Semester 1, 2026 onwards.

The course consists of 40 credit points comprising:

- one core research methods unit (20 credit points)
- one subject at 700 level (20 credit point) to be taken from the area of specialisation

To qualify for award of the degree of Graduate Certificate in Research Methods a candidate shall complete at least 40 credit points

Content of the course of study		Credit points
Core Subjects	RES701 or RES801 Research Methods	20
	Choose one of the Discipline Areas below: THE706 or THE806 Advanced Research in Theology EDU706 or EDU806 Advanced Research in Education BUS706 or BUS806 Advances Research in Business	20
Rules of progression	Refer to candidature policy and procedure	
Other Protocols of the Course	To be eligible to graduate, students must pass at least 40 credit points.	



Course Learning Outcomes

Graduates will be able to demonstrate:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demonstrate an advanced and integrated understanding of constructs and concepts in the field, drawing on a substantial body of scholarly literature.• Develop a foundational understanding of research principles and methods, and advanced knowledge of specific research approaches used in the discipline.
Graduates will be able to demonstrate the ability to:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluate, synthesise, and critically engage theoretical knowledge in the discipline.• Critically evaluate a range of different research methodologies and make an informed judgment of the suitable methodology for a chosen research project.• Effectively communicate complex ideas, concepts and proposed solutions to peers and general audiences in diverse contexts.• Articulate new questions and apply the knowledge and skills developed within the discipline area. gial support;• Work independently, responsibly and with the level of professionalism and integrity expected of a higher education researcher.• Design a research project to generate new knowledge in the discipline area.

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Other Course Information

For other course information, such as information on Professional Accreditation and available intakes, visit the course web page:

<https://www.ac.edu.au/awards/graduate-certificate-in-research-methods/>



Useful Links

AC WEBSITE



<https://www.ac.edu.au/>

ACADEMIC CALENDAR



<https://www.ac.edu.au/key-dates/>

HOW TO ENROL



Please see the [Timetable](#) for available subjects and contact [Student Support Team](#) for tailored academic advice before completing the enrolment form.

AC POLICIES



<https://ww1.ac.edu.au/ppm/>

LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM



Enrolled students will have access to AC's [LMS](#)

FEES



<https://www.ac.edu.au/fees-financing/>

STUDENT FORMS



<https://www.ac.edu.au/forms/>

GRADUATE ATTRIBUTES



<https://ww1.ac.edu.au/ppm/graduate-attributes-policy/>

HDR FORMS AND PROCESSES



<https://www.ac.edu.au/research/higher-degree-research/hdr-forms-and-processes/>

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Student Support

The Student Support team are available if you need assistance. Email the team via: studentsupport@ac.edu.au or book a phone or video call via: [Bookings](#)

Phone: (02) 8893 9005

<https://www.ac.edu.au/student-services/>

For disability support please contact dso@ac.edu.au



Appendix 1

COURSE PROGRESSION TRACKING TEMPLATE

Graduate Certificate in Research Methods

Student:	
Student ID number:	
Year of commencement:	

Graduate Certificate in Research Methods requirements:

- one core research methods unit (20 credit points)
- one subject at 700 level (20 credit point) to be taken from the area of specialisation

40 cp Core subject Subject Code & Name	Subject Credit Points	Comments